Yucca Weekly Update

Councilmember Joyce Clark - City of Glendale, Arizona

Yucca District - where Glendale's past, present and future meet. **September 25, 2009**

Yucca District Meeting
– Save the Date

Please join Councilmember Joyce Clark and representatives from city departments at the upcoming Yucca District Meeting.

Wednesday, November 4
6:30 p.m.
Coyote Ridge
Elementary School
7677 W. Bethany Home Road

Glendale Library Recession Response Project. Have you been laid off? Looking for work? Facing foreclosure or bankruptcy? Stressed out as a result of the economic downturn? Glendale Public Library wants to help.

The library recently received a grant for $54,882 from the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records Agency under the Library Services and Technology Act, which is administered by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The focus of the Glendale Public Library Recession Response, is to help people survive the downturn and to focus on job seekers, homeowners facing foreclosure/bankruptcy, and how to deal effectively with the stress that these situations cause.

The library will act as the hub for the year-long project with hands-on classes designed specifically for people searching for employment.

Other offerings will cover the "nuts-and-bolts" of surviving this recession: general job searching, job searching over 40, creating an effective resume, interview tips, surviving a layoff, managing debt, basic money management, repairing your credit, facing foreclosure, deciding on bankruptcy, handling stress and other related topics.

The library is working with a number of community partners: Goodwill, AARP, Consumer Credit Counseling Services and Jobing.com.

In addition to free classes, the grant provides for additional computers for public use and for new library materials on pertinent topics related to the recession issues.

For more information or to register for classes, call (623) 930-3555. Registrations are also taken at the Main Library Reference Desk; call (623) 930-3531.

27th Annual Fire Prevention Day & Parade. Join the Glendale Fire Department and Southwest Gas on Saturday, October 3, as we bring a fun-filled day of fire safety to the community. The parade, sponsored by Southwest Gas, starts at 9 a.m. at 52nd and Glendale avenues and ends at Murphy Park. Everyone loves a parade, especially a parade filled with fire vehicles, mascots, bands, clowns, scouts, and more! Stick around for the festival from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., in Murphy Park, 58th and Glendale avenues. The fun includes music, food vendors, safety booths, activities for families, and a huge display of fire apparatus! Read more.

Click it or Ticket. Officers from the Glendale Police Department are making a special commitment to help save lives on Arizona roadways by stepping-up enforcement and reminding all drivers and passengers to *Click it or Ticket*. The enforcement efforts are part of a nationwide campaign to increase awareness regarding the use of child safety seats and the wearing of seat belts.

The Arizona Governor's Office of Highway Safety has awarded the City of Glendale $30,000 for the *Click It or Ticket* program. The purpose of this program is to implement a demonstration project in Maricopa County to test the effects of conducting multiple, short-term *Click It or Ticket* mobilization periods. The goal is to sustain and increase the seat belt and car seat usage rates in Maricopa County. The grant program will consist of three one-week enforcement periods between September 2009 and October 2010.

Glendale's enforcement will take place the last two weeks of September and is designed to increase seat belt and car seat usage. Worn correctly, seat belts can significantly reduce the risk of fatal injury. High visibility enforcement of seat belt laws, like the *Click It or Ticket* program, has been effective in raising the awareness and the importance of seat belt and car seat usage.

BAG IT Classes. Glendale Transportation Education designed a class titled **BAG IT** (**B**us **A**nd **G**us **I**ndividual **T**raining) to educate employees and Glendale residents on how to ride the Valley Metro and GUS busses. We knew that people wanted and needed to find alternatives to the financial crunch at the pump, but the thought of riding the bus was just too intimidating. Partnering with Valley Metro, we held our first education class in July 2008.

Since July, 61 people have attended the monthly class and become empowered with bus riding information such as how to plan a bus trip, how to enter and exit a bus, how to purchase a bus ticket, and how to signal for a stop. At the end of the class, attendees have the opportunity to tour both busses and ask questions as they experience the process of actually being on a bus.

Interested in giving your tootsies a rest and making your feet happy as well as your pocketbook? BAG IT classes are offered every fourth Thursday of the month, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. at the Glendale Adult Center, 5970 W. Brown Street. For more information, click here or call (623) 930-4321.

The Big Read. If it's fall, it's time for The Big Read. This celebration of literature returns this month with Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451."

Now a modern day classic, "Fahrenheit 451" is probably on the reading list of every high school student, but it remains popular with adults of all ages.

The West Valley Arts Council, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Glendale Arts Commission, is sponsoring the local Big Read, which runs from September 25-October 31. Multiple copies of the book will be available for Glendale library card holders and library reading groups to check out.

Joe Lockard, Ph.D., an Associate Professor of English at Arizona State University, will lead the discussion at the October 19 book group, 10 a.m. at Velma Teague Branch Library. Click here for more events planned at Glendale libraries.

City of Glendale named to AARP's Best Employers List. The City of Glendale has been named by AARP to its 2009 list of *Best Employers for Workers Over 50*. More than 200 employers applied for Best Employer honors, the highest total in the nine-year history of the program designed to highlight exemplary policies toward workers aged 50 and over. The City joins an impressive list of 50 honorees.

This is the first time the City of Glendale has made the list of *AARP Best Employers for Workers Over 50*, and is the only city organization in Arizona and nationwide that has made the list. With programs like "2 Young 2 Retire" the City seeks to make its mature workers and retirees feel valued.

Around Town

Click here for the City Council meeting schedule.

AVP Professional Beach Volleyball Returns to Westgate - USA Takes on Brazil. AVP Professional Beach Volleyball returns to Glendale September 25-27, this time potentially placing Westgate City Center into the international spotlight. Tickets are on sale now. Read more.

Arab-American Festival. The Arab-American Festival returns to downtown Glendale on September 26 & 27 from noon to 10 p.m. each day. The event includes more than 40 singers, musicians and dancers from all over the Arab World. Activities include kids rides, a Hookah Lounge and an Arabic Food Court. Click here for more information.

Ballet Under the Stars. Spend a relaxing evening under the gorgeous Arizona sky as Ballet Arizona performs at Sahuaro Ranch Park Historic Area on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. The premiere dance company continues its annual tradition with "Ballet Under the Stars," offering free family entertainment with a combination of classical and contemporary works. This year's program will feature the debut performance of a work created as part of the "Class Act" program by Don Mensendick Elementary School students. For more information on Ballet Arizona, visit www.balletaz.org. Sahuaro Ranch Park is located at 59th Avenue and Mountain View Road. For more information on the event, call 623-930-4203.

Star Wars Characters at Glendale Main Library. To highlight the upcoming Star Wars: in Concert performance at Jobing.com Arena, the Glendale Main Library, 5959 W. Brown St., will hold "Meet the Star Wars Characters" at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 30 in the Youth Room. All of your favorite characters, from C-3PO to Darth Vader, will be on hand. Children will also make a space craft to take home. No reservations are necessary. For more information, call the Glendale Main Library Youth Department at (623) 930-3537.

Contact Councilmember Joyce Clark

Council Office: (623) 930-2249
Home Office: (623) 772-9795
E-mail: jclark@glendaleaz.com